

The "Nelly" Newsletter

February 2024



Visit the Club website at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel
or the News and Events website at : <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>



Clubnights



Motorsports



Group Visits



Fun & games at the New Year lunch...

Next Clubnight:
Tuesday 13th February
Speaker: Mike Howgate on
"Dinosaurs"



NEL
North East London Group

boundless BY CSMA

NEL Group Contact Information & Editorial

Web Sites - Club: www.boundless.co.uk/nel or,
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Hi Everyone –

Thanks to Mick for his Twixmas holiday article – and to Staff for the New Year lunch photos. In case you hadn't guessed, the one on the front cover shows everyone getting into the swing of the annual "Heads or Tails" tradition - looks like nobody chose "Tails" though...!

I teamed up with Bernard in early January to take part in The Classic Vehicle Group's New Year run and also had the chance to catch up with Mick, who had entered with a local friend. Organised by Allan Goddard, the route took us around the scenic roads of south Oxfordshire, Bucks. & Berks., but unfortunately, the second half had to be shortened due to extensive flooding, especially around the roads that ran close to the Thames.



This was the scene at the coffee stop by Shillingford Bridge, where the towpath had disappeared completely, leaving the narrowboat occupants cut off from land.

Everyone persevered though and were rewarded with a substantial tea at the finish.

That's all for now - Dave

Please send copy for next issue to Dave Rosher at the email address above: **to arrive by 24 February**

The opinions and recommendations expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the North East London Group Committee, or the Civil Service Motoring Association Ltd. (Boundless by CSMA).

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Chairman's February Chatter

Welcome to February, the month when everyone expects it to snow and yet last week the temperature somewhere in Scotland almost reached 20 centigrade. Perhaps it will snow but hopefully not this coming Friday evening when we are holding our 12 car rally (*it didn't...Ed.*). Last month's 12 car was cancelled due to extensive flooding around the route so the weather is unpredictable to say the least.

On the menu this month we have dinosaurs, a talk by Mike Howgate on their fascinating history and why there aren't any around anymore, except in Jurassic Park (which I think is somewhere near Woburn, or am I confusing it with something else?)

I hope that those who made it to last month's Clubnight despite the A10 problems enjoyed our talk on the future of electricity. The prospect of the country grinding to a stop when everyone plugs in their electric vehicles doesn't seem to be as much of a danger as I thought due to some clever people behind the scenes managing the supply, and maybe our own electrical goods, very thought provoking.

We weren't short of some major sporting events to keep us on the edge of our seats, what with the upset in the tennis down under and the fantastic win by our cricketers in India.

I was watching the live video feeds from the WRC cars coming down the mountain road on the Monte Carlo rally, really quite remarkable the feeling from the in-car cameras of how fast they drive in those conditions and how Elfyn Evans lost his lead to Neuville. And I should mention that I thought the Man City goal against Spurs should never have been allowed.

Unfortunately, I had to miss out on the lunch at the Galley Hall (opposite) last week but it went off very well and I hope everyone enjoyed their meals and the ensuing entertainment.



So what's coming up?

NEL 12 Car Rally Friday 2 February

This month Graham Robinson is organising this evening rally, which is one of the series of navigational rallies run by the North London groups. As is now the norm, all timing is carried out using the Rally App on the navigators' mobile phones so dispensing with the need for manned controls, and brings us into the 21st century with this new technology. Graham will still appreciate help on the night, to supplement the timing as the app allows for manned controls if required.

Clubnight Tuesday 13 February – Speaker

This month we shall be welcoming anthropologist Mike Howgate who has a fascinating talk in store for us, on dinosaurs, and his take on their extinction and, as always, we start at 8.

Monthly Lunch Tuesday 27 February

Over the winter season, we are meeting at lunchtimes, with a return to The Plough at Sewardstone Road - John would like to know if you are intending to join him.

Clubnight Tuesday 12 March – AGM

Your chance to hear what the committee have to say for themselves and also for you to have your say, as all feedback is valuable which we shall listen to and take on board. Also your opportunity to comment on what you would like to see and hear in the future. Staff has prepared some old photos of NEL's involvement in the good old Curtis-Bennett Rally that he will be showing us, to see what life was like thirty years ago or more, and what some of us looked like then.

Take care all, mind the snow - *Bernard*

ROBERTS RAMBLEINS

Into February we go, and I write these few notes completely satisfied. No, I have not won the Lottery, but last month, I went to see The Masters Snooker at Alexandra Palace on the Monday afternoon. I managed to tick off something on my bucket list. I have seen plenty on the television but now I have seen LIVE, a 147 break. It was done by the Chinese player Ding Junhui. In fact, if you looked closely, you could see yours truly.

Unfortunately, I missed club night. The traffic on the A10 was horrendous. Google Maps was full of red on the A10 in Enfield meaning do not even try to use this road. However, I understand it was a well-received talk. These notes are being written before our New Years Lunch, but I do hope it will be a success.

Looking to the future, Club Night this month is a talk by Mike Howgate on Dinosaurs. It is strange that of all the animals that have ever roamed this planet, most people seem to be fascinated by these large reptiles, and the world they inhabited. After that we return to our Monthly Lunch at The Plough, Sewardstone Road. If you wish to go, please contact John so a place can be booked for you. Also, hopefully, it not to early for me to mention the AGM. Remember this is YOUR chance to tell us on the committee if there are any events that you would like to do.

That is all for this month, but hopefully next month, I shall resume museum visits and report on them.

Robert

CIVIL SERVICE MOTORING ASSOCIATION *North East London Group*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Tuesday 12th March 2024

To be held at: **Beaufort Suite, Bishops College, Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ**

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Introduction
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2023 AGM (available at signing in)
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Report (to be printed in March newsletter)
6. Secretary's Report (to be printed in March newsletter)
7. Treasurer's Report (to be printed in March newsletter)
8. Competitions Secretary's Report (to be printed in March newsletter)
9. Election of Officers
10. Election Of Committee
11. Consideration of Motions
12. Signing of Groups Charter
13. Any Other Business

Nominations and motions should be sent to the secretary by email:

robert.daines12@googlemail.com

And should be received no later than 4th March 2024

The AGM will be swiftly followed by a photo session featuring NEL members taking part in past motorsport competitions.

Refreshments will be provided

A look ahead to April Clubnight with Guest Speaker – - **Bill Hamilton**



Bill Hamilton, who hails from Dundee, has enjoyed a 60 year career as a journalist and broadcaster. He started from very humble beginnings as a junior reporter on the Fife Herald before later becoming presenter of BBC Scotland's flagship news programme, *Reporting Scotland*.

He moved to London in 1979 and served successively as Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Special Correspondent with BBC Television News.

His role took him to some of the worst trouble spots at home and abroad – from arctic winter in Scotland (where he took part in the extraordinary rescue of snowbound train passengers) to inner-city riots in Brixton and Toxteth, and from IRA bombs in Brighton and London to a tragic war in Lebanon, the terrible consequences of HIV/AIDS in Africa, the Soviet Union's nuclear testing programme in Kazakhstan and the plight of dying and neglected children in Stalinist Albania.

It was his exclusive reports from Albania that sparked a huge international aid effort – involving among others, Norman Wisdom (Albania's favourite comedian) and the Duchess of York – and won him the Order of Mother Teresa, the country's highest civilian award. He was also honoured by The Royal Television Society and Rotary International.

A Paul Harris Fellow, Bill is the author of three books, *I belong to Glasgow*, *Albania Who Cares?* and his recently published autobiography, *Man on the Spot*. Bill is also a football referee. Having begun as the youngest in Scotland at age 14, he is now officiating in his 65th season, having refereed over 2,000 matches.

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And looking even further ahead... Mick O' Blath has two outdoor events lined up for you...

Walking Treasure Hunt based on Tewin, booking confirmed for Lunch on June 9th - Full details in next edition.

Group Walk based on Tonwell, temporary booking for 7th or 14th September, will be confirmed and full details in the April Newsletter



**A couple more photos
from the New Year Lunch**



AN “ALFA” HOLIDAY NOT UPTO THE USUAL STANDARD

As my last holiday of 2023, I had booked Twixmas, that is 27th to 30th December, on a Super Saver. With this booking Alfa make the choice of where you go and tell you just before the trip. As I had been to 5 of the 6 venues I was not bothered. The chosen venue turned out to be Ilfracombe, North Devon .

My neighbour took me down to Ware High Street for the 9.40 pickup, which arrived on time. This was the same coach for the whole journey to Devon, a private company with its driver.

It was also an older vehicle than usual, the only way to reach the overhead controls was to stand up, not possible for the majority of the passengers.



A country route to South Mimms by 10.30, with no more pickups. We were asked to return to our coaches by 11.15. On my return I asked the driver if I could change seats and he told me 5 and 6 were free. 6 was my normal seat choice when booking. Once on board we noticed that several cases were still on the pavement in front of the coach. The driver was not aware that he had to load them into the lockers underneath. We were the last coach to leave and once on the M25 notices appeared showing that there was a 90 minute delay at the M4 / M5 junction due to the lower of the 2 bridges into Wales being closed. The weather got worse and it was obvious that the driver was not familiar with this coach as he was continually operating all or most of the switches, attempting to get the heat and air to an acceptable level - Eventually successful.

Our lunch stop was taken on the M4, instead of further on, on the M5 as planned. He extended the stop by a further 10 minutes while he was again operating the controls. We came off the M4 and he used minor roads to reach the M5, avoiding any stationary queues. We reached the Hotel at 7.20, 2 hours later than scheduled. The Manager gave a short welcome. On collecting the room key, there was no sign of the Bucks Fizz we were expecting. The evening meal was available immediately. Our young waitress mentioned that she was 18 the next day and was not working again until after our departure.



Thursday morning we departed at 9.45 and were taken to Barnstaple for a couple of hours of free time. Light rain on and off most of the time, but plenty of shops for shelter. We returned to the Hotel for a 3 course lunch, which was not on our itinerary, but very acceptable. Our evening meal was a slow progress due to an inexperienced replacement waitress. Entertainment and Bingo in the evening.

Friday morning we left again at 9.45 and drove to Lynmouth. Heavy rain as soon as we arrived, so we stayed in the coach for another 10 minutes before the rain stopped and the sky cleared. I enjoyed walking along several sections I had not found on previous visits. We returned to the Hotel by 1.15. I joined my table companion on a visit to Wetherspoons, 200 yards from our Hotel, where I consumed an 8 inch Pizza and 2 mugs of coffee for under £8.



The evening meal was again rather slow going, followed by entertainment and Bingo later in the evening .

Saturday breakfast at 8, the service improved as we were served by an older regular staff member. Departure time was 9, but once again the driver had not loaded the coach, expecting the Alfa staff to take the cases to the coach. This problem was overcome by US taking the cases to the coach. 9.15, ready to go but a passenger needed to go back into the Hotel. 9.25, departed . 9.32, having cleared the town, the driver's phone rings - you have left ONE behind. Return to the Hotel. 9.40, depart again. Man had read the 2nd coach time of 9.20 (Reading Interchange) and the driver was told 2 people were staying, so miscounted. Had a 40 minute stop on M5 but too early for lunch, then told 20 minute at stop on M4, which the driver extended to 30 minutes after we got back on. Arrived at South Mimms at 3.30 (last coach in). Told to return at 4. Left at 4.05 (last coach out), I directed the driver by the shortest route to drop me off, as I was the only Ware passenger - 5 minutes walk home, by 4.42.

Reasons why not up to usual standard :- Inferior coach, driver not Alfa aware or uniform. Casual and untrained Hotel staff. Hotel Manager was too casual in manner and appearance. Smaller vegetable portions. I asked the drinks waitress what happened to the Bucks Fizz and she said it was Mulled Wine, would I like one (with my meal) . It was very nice and acceptable.

5 days away, with no cooking or washing up, for a total expenditure including drinks lunch and tips for under £240. Enjoyed.

MICK O'BLATH

Date	Day		Event (Status)	Type of Event	Club
Feb	Fri 2	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NEL
	Sat 10	*	20:20 Rally (Cm)	100 mile Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 16	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Chelmsford MC
Mar	Fri 1	*	12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 8		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Fri 15		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Chelmsford MC
Apr	Fri 5		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	CSMA NWL
	Fri 12		12 Car (Cm)	Navigational rally	Blackbird AC
	Sun 28		Autosolo (Cm)	Cross between autotest/sprint	Oxford MC

Licence required: (I/Nat/Inter/Cm) = MSUK Licence, (C) = Club Card, () = Nothing, * = Regs available

Past Events

January 12 Car Rally Unfortunately, this was cancelled on the morning of the event, when flooding of bits of the route made it difficult to re-route, plus there was always going to be a lot of water on the roads elsewhere, so the decision was taken to cancel..

Future Events

February 12 Car Rally The start for this event is from the Rose & Crown PH, Upper Green Rd, Tewin, Herts AL6 0LE, MR 166/272148. Using map 166 for the 45 mile route, with the first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Currently we only have eight entries for the event, but enough to run. The organiser is Graham Robinson and you can contact him on graham.e.robinson@btinternet.com with regard to marshalling.

March 12 Car Rally Starting from The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES, MR 166/189125, it will use map 166 (edition FEB 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be the usual three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Regs are currently available. Entry fee is £16 per car. The organiser is Mike Harrison and is contactable on mlh.bhm@btconnect.com.

April 12 Car Rally Starting from The Farmers Boy PH, 216 Common Road, Kensworth, Dunstable LU6 2PJ MR 166 / 028182, it will use map 166 (edition FEB 2018) for the 45 mile route, with first car starting at 8:31pm. There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts and the navigation will be tailored to suit the classes. Entry fee is £16 per car. Organiser is Alan Thurbon and you can contact him on alanthurbon@yahoo.com

Future 12 Car Rally Season We are planning to change the 12 Car Rally dates for next season, due to the January event is the most likely to be hit by bad weather, so it is planned that the events will now run in Nov, Dec, Feb and Mar. The existing January event will move to Nov and the existing April event will move to Dec, with the existing February and March events staying as is. This also allows for the two uses of the John Bunyan PH start to be better separated. Just need to sort out the Nov and Dec dates with the other clubs.

MSUK Clubman Licence Almost all these events in the calendar require you to have one of these licences as a minimum to compete, either as a driver or passenger. If you go to <https://rsclubman.motorsportuk.org>, you can order your free licence, but please make sure you don't leave it to the last minute. The 2024 renewals became available from the beginning of December.

Other Events Please see the calendar above for other events we have an invite to. I can get regs for any of these, just contact me if interested. Most of these events are entered via the Sapphire System, so regs, etc. can be found there. We will be invited to all the Anglian Motor Sport Club autosolos/autotests throughout the year.

Mike Biss: NLR Motor Sports Coordinator

Tel: 07753 137415

E-mail: mike.biss@btinternet.com

NWL 12 Car Rally

Friday 1st March

The John Bunyan PH, Colman Green, Herts AL4 8ES MR 166/189125 - Map 166

There will be three classes:- Beginners / Novices / Experts - £16 entry fee

Navigation will be tailored to suit the classes - Map 166 FEB 2018 required

Standard Navigation Guidelines introduced for organisers – see regs for details

Mike Harrison (mlh.bhm@btconnect.com)

Competitors required - Arrive before 8pm, first car starts at 20:31

<https://rally.sapphire-solutions.co.uk/register.php?siteName=boundless>

Regs now available from Mike Biss or website

Member Communities Communique

January 2024 Update

New Club Treasurer

Following the usual nomination and election process, we're delighted to announce that **Janice Stace** has been elected as the Club Treasurer for a term of office until Summer 2025 (completing Geoff Gaunt's original term as is required by the Articles of the Association, following Geoff's recent election as Club Leader).

As part of this role, Janice will become a Non-Executive Director on the CSMA Board.

Congratulations Janice!

LGR election

Following Janice's election as the Club Treasurer, she is now required to relinquish her role as a Local Group Representative on the Club Council. Therefore, nominations for this role will soon be circulated.



2024 Dates for your diary.....

2024 Association AGM:

The AGM has now been confirmed as 2.30pm, Thursday 31st October 2024. This year it is to be held in our own offices in Britannia House, Brighton.

We're also intending to broadcast the AGM online for members to participate in who are not able to attend the AGM in person. More details will follow.

2024 Club Council Meetings:

The 2024 Club Council meeting dates are now confirmed as the following:

- 10.00am Tuesday 6th February via Zoom
- 11.00am Wednesday 15th May in person, venue TBC
- 10.00am Thursday 5th September via Zoom
- 11.00am Thursday 31st October in person (with AGM)
- 10.00am Monday 2nd December via Zoom

Any Group Committee member can request to attend a Club Council meeting, please contact Nick to indicate your interest, email: nicholas.hoath@boundless.co.uk

Magazine Content Deadlines:

The deadline for the Spring 2024 issue of the magazine has now passed. The deadline for Group's content for the Summer 2024 issue is 10th March. The provisional deadlines for content for the Autumn 2024 issue is 25th June, and the Winter 2024 issue is 22nd September.

These deadlines may change as productions schedules are finalised; however, you should use these dates as a guideline.

Groups Activities

Regular readers of the Communique will know that we like to include photos and brief reports of our Group's activities.

The photos don't need to be professional, just try to include members enjoying themselves, plus a sentence or two about the event.

Our **Dorset Group** celebrated the Boundless by CSMA 100th Anniversary with a visit to the world-renowned RNLI Headquarters at Poole.



Members were treated to an in-depth tour, including the fascinating lifeboat training simulator, and concluded the visit with a very convivial meal together. A great time was had by all!



And here's our **Tamar Group** enjoying their Christmas lunch, held 2 weeks before Christmas at the Boringdon Park Golf Club.

As you can see, all enjoyed the festivities, in superb surroundings, another great event!



And for the last update for this month, we're back with **Dorset Group** again.

The Group's recent Charity quiz in aid of the Dorset County Hospital Dialysis Unit, where one of the group's regular members is receiving treatment, was won by Debbie and Martin.

And here they are being presented with their winning prize of a Christmas hamper at the Group's annual Christmas Lunch.



Member Events 2024

Member Days

If you're delaying in purchasing your tickets for our Member Days, our advice is don't!

As you'll see below, several events have already sold out, or have very limited tickets available.

16th March: Chatham Dockyard – last few tickets available.

13th April: Warwick Castle – last few tickets available.

20th April: Chester Zoo – SOLD OUT

27th April: Wookey Hole – SOLD OUT

11th May: Brooklands – SOLD OUT

18th May: Drayton Manor – SOLD OUT

8th June: Tatton Park – plenty of tickets available.

We're hoping to launch the next few Member Days for later in the year, in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on your Boundless emails!

We're also still looking for a few volunteers to help support these events, please contact emma.quirk@boundless.co.uk to indicate your interest.



Online Events

Our series of Online Events continues on Thursday evening with another fantastic presentation from our extremely popular submariner, Jonty Powis, on life aboard a nuclear submarine.

Upcoming Online Events:

Thursday 11th January, 7pm: Life aboard a nuclear submarine.

Tuesday 16th January, 7pm: Driving into the future.

Tuesday 23rd January, 7pm: Boundless Antiques Roadshow.

Thursday 1st February, 7pm: Under the Wig, with a criminal barrister.

Tuesday 6th February, 7pm: Small inventions that changed the world.

Thursday 22nd February, 7pm: The James Webb Space Telescope.

Check out the Member Events page on the Boundless website for full details of more events:

[Boundless Events & Member Days | Boundless by CSMA](#)

About the Communique

The Communique is sent to around 350 of our volunteers, Group and Association Officers and other interested members. Many of our Group Secretaries also forward the Communique to those members who regularly attend their Group events. Can we improve it in any way?

Let us know by emailing: membercommunities@boundless.co.uk

Dates for your Diary - 2024

Club Night Venue: Bishop's College
Churchgate, Cheshunt, EN8 9XQ

Lunch / Dinner Venues may vary month by month so keep a close watch on the Newsletter each month for precise details of location.

Evenings start at 7.45 for 8.00pm

Clubnights – 2nd Tuesday

Daytime Lunches, 12.30pm – 4th Tuesday

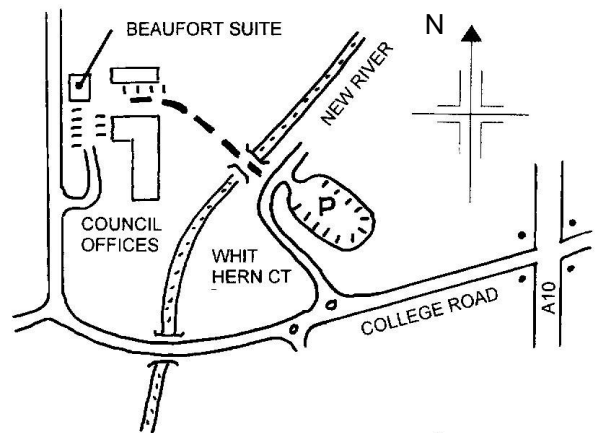
Evening Dinners, 7.30pm – 4th Tuesday

Month	Event
March	Fri 1 st – NWL Group 12 Car Rally Tue 12 th – Clubnight AGM - followed by Photos of NEL Group competitions Tue 26 th - Monthly Lunch at: The Plough, Sewardstone Road, EN9 3QQ
April	Fri 5 th – NWL Group 12 Car Rally Tue 9 th - Clubnight: Speaker - former BBC Presenter, Bill Hamilton <i>“My life as a journalist at the BBC”</i> Tue 23 rd – Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY
May	Tue 14 th - Clubnight: Speaker – Ann Luder Tue 23 rd – Monthly Dinner at: The Galley Hall, Hailey Lane, Hoddesdon, SG13 7NY
June	Sun 9 th - Treasure Hunt – Tewin Tue 11 th Clubnight: Speaker – Tricia Thompson <i>“Conkers and Skipping Ropes”</i> Tue 25 th – Pitch and Putt at Kingsmead, Ware

Our Indoor Club Night venue is: **Bishop's College**, EN8 9XQ (Civic Offices), located on Churchgate, at its junction with College Road, about 300m West of the A10 junction with College road (Traffic lights and pedestrian footbridge).

Our Clubroom is in the Beaufort Suite, which appears to be an old Chapel from outside.

There is a **Free Car Park** in Whit Hern Court off College Road (*Ignore “Permit Holders Only” sign*) then a short walk over the New River footbridge to the venue.



For further details, see inside or, ring the Secretary; Robert Daines on: 07944 732890

Or, contact him via E-Mail on: robert.daines12@gmail.com

Visit the Websites at: www.boundless.co.uk/nel or, <https://news.boundlessevents.uk>